

# Supply

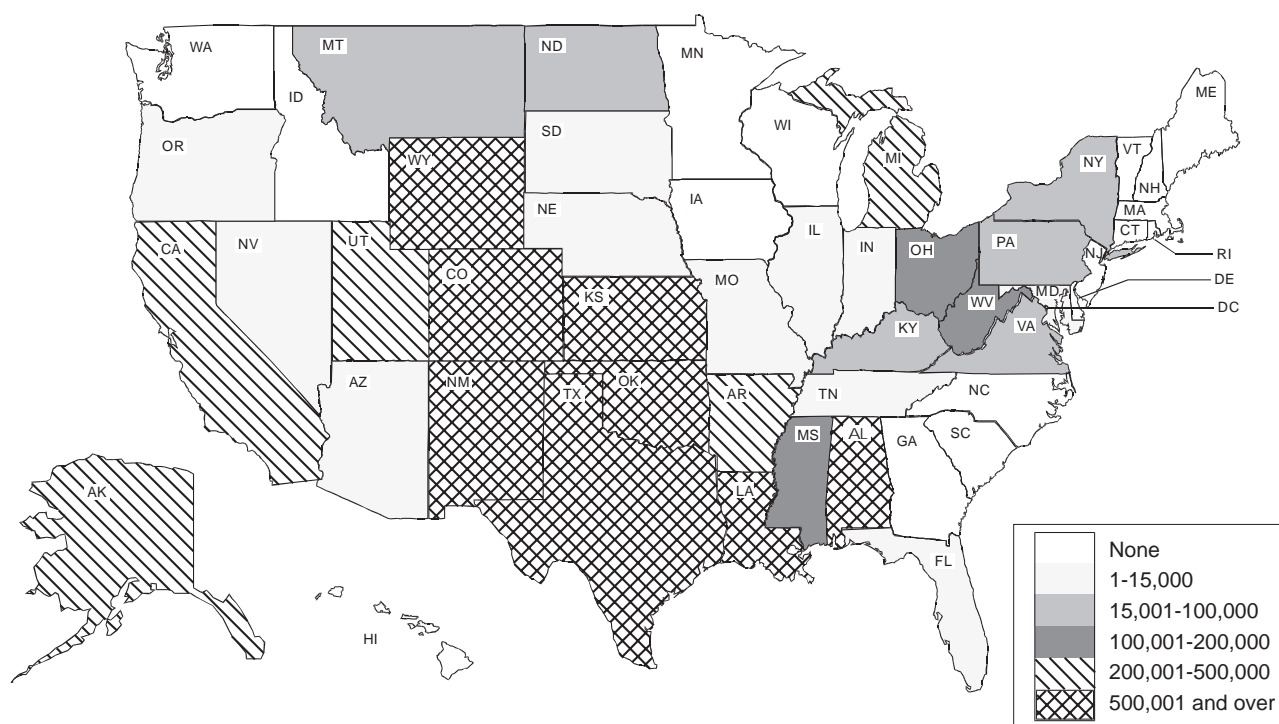
## Production

Natural gas marketed production rose in 1997 to 19.9 trillion cubic feet, the highest level since 1981. Marketed production is derived from gross withdrawals by subtracting quantities used for repressuring, nonhydrocarbon gases removed, and gas vented and flared. Production has risen 3.0 trillion cubic feet since 1986, but current volumes remain 12 percent below the historical peak of 22.6 trillion cubic feet in 1973. Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico continued as the leading producers of natural gas. Together these four States supplied 14.9 trillion cubic feet, 75 percent of marketed natural gas production in 1997.

From 1996 to 1997, four States showed substantial increases in marketed production: Alabama, 52 billion cubic feet; Colorado, 65 billion cubic feet; Michigan, 60 billion cubic feet; and Wyoming, 72 billion cubic feet. In Texas it rose very modestly, by 5 billion cubic feet, to reach 6.5 trillion cubic feet. Marketed production declined 31 billion cubic feet in Oklahoma to 1.7 trillion cubic feet. In Louisiana and New Mexico, production remained virtually the same.

For the fifth year in a row, the number of producing gas wells and gas-condensate wells rose, reaching 311,338 in 1997, 3 percent above the level one year ago. Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas each showed substantial increases from 1996 to 1997, ranging from approximately 2,900 to more than 4,100 wells. The number of wells in West Virginia declined, by more than 4,100.

**Figure 4. Marketed Production of Natural Gas in the United States, 1997**  
(Million Cubic Feet)



**Sources:** West Virginia, 1997: Energy Information Administration (EIA), *U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Natural Gas Liquids Reserves, Annual Reports*, DOE/EIA-0216; and EIA computations. All other data: Form EIA-895, "Monthly Quantity and Value of Natural Gas Report" and the United States Minerals Management Service.